

NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FOR THE

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS,

AND OF THE

OFFICERS OF THE OHIO INSTITUTION

FOR THE

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND:

TO THE

GOVERNOR OF OHIO.

**For the Year 1855.**

COLUMBUS:

STATESMAN STEAM PRESS.

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# BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

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PRESIDENT,

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JANE MUNNEL.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE  
BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS  
OF THE  
STATE OF OHIO.

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COLUMBUS, OHIO,  
JANUARY 3, 1856.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, WILLIAM MEDILL,  
*Governor of Ohio :*

SIR: I have the honor herewith to deliver you the Report of the Board of Trustees for the Benevolent Institutions, and the reports of the several officers made to the Board.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS SPARROW,  
*Sec'y Board of Trustees.*

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TO HIS EXCELLENCY, WILLIAM MEDILL,  
*Governor of Ohio :*

The Board of Trustees for the Benevolent Institutions located in Columbus, have the honor to submit their report for the year 1855.

It is with great satisfaction that the Board are able to report the continued prosperity of the Institutions under their charge. The health of the inmates has been as good as in previous years. The reports of the several Superintendents will show the success which has met their efforts to cure the diseased, and impart instruction to the unfortunate. The officers have discharged their duties with fidelity, and, in general, to the complete satisfaction of the Board.

In giving the details of the history of the Institutions under their charge, the Board commence with the oldest :



## THE INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

This Institution was founded in 1827. The first Board of Trustees organized on the 9th day of July, 1827, and submitted their first report to the General Assembly on the 5th December of the same year. The school was opened, in a private house, on the 16th October, 1829. The main building of the Institution was not commenced until 1832, nor finished until 1834. The rapid increase in the number of the pupils requiring more room, in 1845 the south front of the present edifice was erected.

Since that date, the number of pupils has been nearly doubled. The present able and efficient Superintendent has been compelled to reject many applications for admission, in consequence of the limited accommodations which the present buildings afford. The Board would have taken pleasure in instructing him to hunt out these children of misfortune, and invite them to the Institution; but they have been constrained to discourage applications for admission. Many of the deaf mutes of Ohio, are now under instruction in the Institutions of other States. All must acknowledge the injustice of not furnishing them the opportunity of an education at home. The doors of our public schools are open to all children possessed of their senses. Ample means are provided by general and local taxation, for the support of these schools, and the facilities of instruction. Deaf mutes are as capable of improvement as other children, and need instruction much more. The sense of hearing, the principal avenue for the acquisition of knowledge in infancy and early youth, is closed. The sense of sight, until they learn to read, can only furnish them with a limited knowledge of the forms and colors of objects. Nearly all, who have been deaf from infancy or extreme youth, come to the Institution but little in advance of total mental blindness, with passions unsubdued, and almost uncontrollable.

None but those who have had charge of such Institutions, can appreciate the wonderful change which is wrought by a few months' instruction. The eye which was dull and lifeless, is filled with animation; the face which was destitute of expression, is enlightened by the smiles of gratitude, and the light of intelligence; the physical system which was apparently incapable of animated and joyous movement, becomes quick, and full of life and spirit. It would seem as if a cloud had rolled away, and the sun was imparting life and beauty to the face of nature.

In 1850 there were in the United States nine thousand eight hundred and three deaf and dumb persons, or one in every two thousand three hundred and sixty-five.

In the same year, there were in the State of Ohio nine hundred and fifteen deaf mutes. Of these, four hundred and eighty-six were males, and four hundred and twenty-nine females.

Five hundred and eighty-seven were natives of the State; two hundred and sixty-three natives of the United States; fifty-nine of foreign birth; the place of the nativity of the remaining six was unknown.

The proportion of deaf and dumb persons to the whole population of the State, is as 1 to 2,164.

According to the census of 1850, there were, at that time, in this State, five hundred and forty-two deaf mutes between the ages of ten and thirty. We may safely estimate the present number between those ages at six hundred. At least two hundred and fifty of these are of the proper age to receive instruction in the Institution. Forty-five new pupils should be admitted into the Asylum annually, and two hundred and fifty constantly under instruction in it.

Subjoined is a table showing the comparative number of deaf mutes in all the chief European States, of the Institutions for their reception, and of the number of



inmates which they now contain. We have added the statistics of the United States upon the same subject. The information is, in some respects, curious and interesting.

COUNTRIES.	Population.	No. of Deaf and Dumb.	No. of Institutions.	Pupils under instruction.
Portugal -----	3,815,000	2,407	1	20
Spain -----	11,500,000	7,255	1	30
France -----	35,783,170	29,512	28	798
Italy -----	20,000,000	12,618	5	147
Switzerland -----	2,000,000	3,976	5	80
Austria -----	26,444,000	16,684	6	197
Prussia -----	16,331,187	11,973	18	314
Other German States -----	9,905,475	8,283	28	410
Hanover -----	1,500,000	946	1	10
Holland and Belgium -----	6,166,584	2,166	5	249
Denmark -----	1,800,000	1,260	2	190
Sweden and Norway -----	3,800,000	2,397	1	40
Russia -----	44,118,000	27,834	2	111
Great Britain -----	27,511,801	17,300	18	1,401
United States -----	23,191,876	9,803	17	1,539

The number of pupils now in the Institution is one hundred and forty-eight. The Board, in their former reports, have called attention to the fact that the present buildings do not afford room sufficient for the comfortable and suitable accommodation of so large a number of children. The rooms are crowded to an unhealthy excess. Many citizens of the State desire to send their children to the Institution, but our limited accommodations forbid their reception.

We would again recommend that an appropriation be made for the erection of a new Institution sufficiently ample for the present and prospective wants of the State.

The location of such building, in case the recommendation of the Board should be carried out, has frequently been a subject of discussion. The Board are of the opinion that its present location has advantages over any other which could be selected.

The uniform good health enjoyed by the pupils and officers, even during seasons in which severe epidemics have prevailed throughout the country, is, perhaps, as strong an argument in favor of its continuance on its present site as any that could be advanced. In twenty-nine years, out of the six hundred and four children, who have been pupils, only seven have died at the Institution. No severe epidemic has at any time prevailed among them.

The grounds of the Institution are improved, and have the advantage of a life time, in that respect, over a new site. Many of the improvements have been made by each succession of pupils.

The subject of a change of location was thoroughly discussed, and the objections clearly stated in the report of the late Superintendent, for the year 1851. To that document we would respectfully refer for a fuller statement of the grounds of our opinion.

There is, however, one other view of the subject, which we beg leave to present. Good faith to the grantors of the land on which the Institution is situated, seems to forbid its removal. In order to secure its location, and aid in the establishment of a benevolent enterprise, they deeded the land to the State for a sum two thirds below its real value at the time of conveyance. They made this donation with the understanding that it was to be the permanent site of an Institution for the education of the Deaf and Dumb.

Justice requires that the implied conditions of the grant should be fulfilled ; or if the Institution is removed, the grantors should be placed in the same position in which they would now stand had the conveyance never been made.\*

The expenses of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, for the year ending Nov. 15, 1854, were as follows :

For salaries of Superintendent, Teachers, Physician, Steward and Matrons .....	\$6,907 08
For contingent expenses.....	7,994 51
For the year ending Nov. 15, 1855, the amount paid for salaries was.....	7,361 51
For contingent expenses.....	7,476 52

In consequence of the great, sudden and unexpected rise in many staple articles of consumption, the appropriations of the last General Assembly were not large enough to meet the expenses of the Institution.

A debt which now amounts to \$4,648 16, has been incurred in order to keep it in operation. This amount should be paid promptly. The Board, therefore, request that an appropriation be made at an early day to meet this debt ; and also a further appropriation of \$5,000, to defray the expenses from the 15th November last, until the general appropriation bill shall be passed.

Below will be found a table showing the annual expenses of the Institution from its establishment in 1829 to the present time.

TABLE showing the annual expenses of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, from 1829, to Nov. 15, 1855.

1829.....	\$394 00	1843.....	\$9,840 03
1830.....	1,432 67	1844.....	14,640 58
1831.....	2,131 62	1845.....	16,886 24
1832.....	3,956 53	1846.....	11,737 30
1833.....	6,795 67	1847.....	11,427 47
1834.....	11,582 70	1848.....	12,329 42
1835.....	8,538 40	1849.....	10,291 43
1836.....	4,706 48	1850.....	14,999 74
1837.....	6,941 35	1851.....	12,061 45
1838.....	8,548 12	1852.....	.....
1839.....	8,491 09	1853.....	16,906 32
1840.....	8,717 57	1854.....	14,901 59
1841.....	8,074 24	1855.....	14,838 03
1842.....	7,764 31		

The foregoing table exhibits a gradual increase in the annual expenses of the Institution. This has been occasioned—

1. By the annual increase in the number of pupils, and a consequent increase in the supplies necessary to feed them. A greater number of teachers has also been required.

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\* See correspondence between Hon. M. Birchard and Rev. James Hoge, D. D., one of the original grantors—Appendix to the Report of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum.



2. By the great rise in the principal articles of consumption.

3. By the course of legislation. The first act in relation to this Institution was passed 30th January, 1827. It provided for the support, at the expense of the State, of one indigent pupil from each judicial circuit. The law of March 3d, 1831, provided for the education and support of two indigent pupils from each judicial circuit. By the act of 25th February, 1833, the number to be supported at the expense of the State was increased to three from each circuit. It further provided, that if any circuit failed to send the number to which it was entitled, the deficiency might be made up from other districts.

The law of March 3d, 1834, authorized the Board of Trustees to receive and support in the Institution, at the expense of the State, all deaf and dumb persons, who produced satisfactory evidence that they were in indigent circumstances, and suitable persons to receive instruction.

On the 29th April, 1854, an act was passed, providing that all pupils thereafter should be supported at the expense of the State, traveling expenses and clothing excepted.

The appropriations necessary for the support of this Institution for the year 1856, are, in the opinion of the Board, as follows :

For salaries of Officers, Teachers and Physician.....	\$8,050 00
For contingent expenses.....	10,800 00
For labor.....	1,200 00
For repairs.....	1,000 00

For the year 1857, the Board would recommend the following appropriations :

For salaries.....	\$8,650 00
For contingent expenses .....	10,800 00
For labor.....	1,200 00
For repairs.....	1,000 00

Means should be placed at the disposal of the Board, which will enable them to retain teachers who have acquired experience in the instruction of the deaf and dumb. The Institution has, in former years, suffered much from the loss of valuable teachers, who have received invitations to occupy similar positions in other States at higher salaries. The progress of the pupils is seriously affected by frequent changes of instructors.

## LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The Ohio Lunatic Asylum has been in successful operation for seventeen years, having been opened for the reception of patients on the 30th day of November, 1838. Since that date, two thousand seven hundred and seventy-six patients have been received within its walls and enjoyed the benefits which it confers. Of this number, fourteen hundred and eleven have been discharged recovered, two hundred and seventy nine improved, five hundred and twelve unimproved, and three hundred and fifty-eight have died ; leaving in the institution, at the date of this report, two hundred and sixteen patients.

For a full statement of the results of the institution for the past year, we refer to the Annual Report of the Superintendent, which is herewith submitted.

The medical profession has the honor of making the first movement toward the erection of a State institution for the insane in Ohio. The State Medical Convention which assembled at Columbus on the 5th of January, 1835, appointed a committee on the subject of a Lunatic Asylum. A memorial to the General Assembly,

recommending the erection of a public asylum for the reception and cure of the insane, was prepared by this committee, and after having been unanimously adopted by the convention, was ordered to be signed by the President and Secretary, and presented to the General Assembly.

This memorial, in which the inadequacy of the provisions for the cure of mental diseases is strongly and powerfully set forth, and the establishment of a public institution urgently pressed upon the Legislature, was presented, as ordered, on the 14th day of January, 1835.

The facts relative to the treatment of the insane, were set forth with such force, and the justice of the recommendation was so apparent from the statement, that immediate action was had upon the subject. On the 5th of March, resolutions were adopted instructing the Governor to procure from the Auditors of the several counties, information relative to the number, age, sex, circumstances and manner of treatment of the lunatics in the State.

On the 7th of March, an act was also passed, providing for the election of a Board of Trustees, on whom was imposed the duty of collecting information in relation to the construction, arrangement and probable cost of suitable buildings. They were further authorized to purchase a site for an institution. For this purpose \$2,000 were appropriated.

In pursuance of this law, on the 9th of March Dr. Samuel Parsons, Dr. William M. Aul and Gen. Samuel F. McCracken were appointed Directors.

This Board immediately entered upon the discharge of their duties. During the year, they purchased thirty acres of land in the vicinity of Columbus, on which the institution now stands. Twenty-seven acres were purchased at a subsequent date.

The Trustees visited the principal institutions in the eastern States, and on the 10th of December presented an elaborate report, detailing the results of their observations, and submitting the plans and a general description of the edifice which they had fixed upon and proposed to erect.

The plan was approved, and an act passed authorizing the Board to proceed in the erection of the buildings, and appropriating \$15,000 for that purpose. Other liberal appropriations were made by the Legislature, at subsequent periods, and the work, which had been vigorously commenced, proceeded rapidly to its completion. The Asylum was opened for the reception of patients on the 30th of November, 1838.

Since that date, nearly three thousand cases of insanity have been treated in the institution; more than one half of which number have been restored to reason.

Institutions for the cure of mental diseases are of recent origin, and are the product of Christian benevolence; their efficiency is of more recent origin than their establishment. At a period not very remote, the cardinal principle in the moral treatment of an insane patient, was to inspire him with fear, and break his will. To accomplish this object, stripes and blows, bleeding and purgatives, were resorted to, and ingenious modes of punishment contrived. Chains and handcuffs were considered necessary to insure the safety of all concerned.

It was not until 1792, that correct views respecting the treatment of the insane, began to prevail. To the celebrated Pinel, a physician of Paris, is due the credit of having reduced them to practice. Having been appointed physician-in-chief to the Bicetre, he found there a large number of lunatics, who being considered incurable, were kept constantly chained. After much importunity and warm and earnest entreaty, he obtained from the government permission to unchain these maniacs. Great fears were entertained for the personal safety of this illustrious physician, should he undertake to free them from confinement. But the result proved the soundness of his views. "The first man on whom he tried the experiment, was one of the most furious, who had been in chains for forty years, and already



killed one keeper by a blow with his manacles. Pinel entered his cell unattended, and offered to remove his chains and permit him to walk in the court, if he would promise to behave well, and injure no one. 'Yes, I promise you,' said the maniac. His chains were then removed, and the keepers retired, leaving the door of his cell open. He raised himself many times from his seat, but fell again, for he had been in a sitting posture so long, that he had lost the use of his legs. In a quarter of an hour he succeeded in maintaining his balance, and with tottering steps he came to the door of his cell. His first look was at the sky, and he said enthusiastically—'How beautiful!'" From that time forward he had no return of his previous paroxysms, and was perfectly controllable.

In the course of a few days, Pinel released fifty-three maniacs from their chains, many of whom, under his mild and judicious treatment, were soon restored to perfect health of body and mind.

The success of Pinel created great sensation, not only in France, but throughout the civilized world, and produced a complete revolution in the treatment of the insane. Vigilance and tact have taken the place of restraint and confinement. The will of the patient is subjected to that of the attendant by judicious firmness and invariable kindness, instead of violence and stripes. Cleanliness, and the proprieties of dress, have been substituted for filth and rags, and pleasant rooms and the open air, for the dungeon and the cell.

Something more than food, lodging and medicine, are required to restore the diseased mind to reason. The expenditure necessary to carry on a common boarding house, will not sustain or render effective an Institution of this description. The adoption of such a principle in their management, would be an effectual bar to all improvement, and defeat the very object of their establishment. Economy should be practiced, but it should not be permitted to degenerate into parsimony, nor benevolence into its counterfeit.

Experience has demonstrated that the greater the number of the comforts of life with which a patient can be surrounded, the more strict the observance of the proprieties of life in his treatment, his personal appearance and mode of living, the more likely he is to recover. To do this, great expenditure is necessary.

The amounts annually appropriated by the General Assembly for the support of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum, the amounts received from pay patients, and also the whole amount applicable to the support of the Institution from its foundation to the present time, will be found in the tables which follow:

TABLE OF APPROPRIATIONS made for the erection and support of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum.

Reference to the acts.	Amount.	Date.	For what purpose.
33 L. L. 294	\$2,000 00	Mar. 7, 1835	Land.
34 L. L. 288	15,000 00	Mar. 5, 1836	Building.
34 G. L. 39	300 00	Mar. 14, 1836	Pay Trustees.
35 G. L. 112	22,000 00	April 3, 1837	Building.
	300 00		Pay Trustees.
36 G. L. 92	29,000 00	Mar. 19, 1838	Building.
	300 00		Pay Trustees.
37 G. L. 71	17,000 00	Mar. 18, 1839	Building.
	10,000 00		Expenses and salaries.
38 G. L. 9	5,000 00	Jan. 20, 1840	Expenses.
38 G. L. 144	15,000 00	Mar. 23, 1840	Expenses and salaries.
39 G. L. 29	15,000 00	Mar. 26, 1841	do do
40 G. L. 59	12,000 00	Mar. 7, 1842	Expenses.
	2,900 00		Salaries.
41 G. L. 46	5,000 00	Feb. 28, 1843	Building west wing.
95	14,000 00	Mar. 13, 1843	Expenses.
	1,500 00		Salary of Superintendent.
42 G. L. 78	10,000 00	Mar. 13, 1844	Building west wing.
	1,500 00		Salary of Superintendent.
	7,000 00		Expenses.
43 G. L. 129	1,500 00	Mar. 13, 1845	Salary of Superintendent.
	13,000 00		Expenses.
	2,000 00		Land.
	6,000 00		Building east wing.
	10,000 00		Furnish west wing.
44 G. L. 130	1,500 00	Mar. 2, 1846	Salary of Superintendent.
44 G. L. 130	23,000 00		Building and furnishing east wing.
	20,000 00		Expenses.
45 G. L. 56	2,900 00	Feb. 8, 1847	Salaries.
	23,000 00		Expenses.
	4,000 00		Finishing and furnishing east wing.
	1,800 00		Building.
46 G. L. 103	2,900 00	Feb. 25, 1848	Salaries.
	25,000 00		Expenses.
	2,500 00		Pavement, lightning rods, &c.
47 G. L. 45	2,900 00	Mar. 17, 1849	Salaries.
	28,000 00		Expenses.
48 G. L. 93	3,000 00	Mar. 23, 1850	Salaries.
	21,800 00		Expenses.
49 G. L. 121	3,000 00	Mar. 25, 1851	Salaries.
49 G. L. 121	29,000 00		Expenses.
50 G. L. 326	5,000 00	Mar. 16, 1852	do
327	3,000 00	May 1, 1852	Salaries.
	22,000 00		Expenses.
51 G. L. 285	5,000 00	Dec. 2, 1852	do
454	3,000 00	Mar. 14, 1853	Salaries.



## TABLE OF APPROPRIATIONS—Continued.

Reference to the acts.	Amount.	Date.	For what purpose.
51 G. L. 454	\$25,000 00	Mar. 14, 1853	Expenses.
	10,000 00		Heating by steam.
	6,000 00		Infirmary.
	2,282 00		Roofing buildings.
	4,000 00		Water closets and bathing apparatus.
52 G. L. 18	6,000 00	Feb. 25, 1854	Expenses.
144	9,000 00	May 1, 1854	Water closets and bathing apparatus.
	500 00		Improving grounds.
	8,000 00		Heating by steam.
	200 00		Salary of Chaplain.
	1,000 00		Sewers.
	8,000 00		Salaries.
	25,000 00		Expenses.
For 1855.			
52 G. L. 144	3,000 00		Salaries.
	30,000 00		Expenses.
	200 00		Salary of Chaplain.

TABULAR STATEMENT of amounts received of pay patients, and which went toward the support of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum, from 1839, to March 4, 1851, when the law allowing pay patients was repealed, and enacting that "all persons admitted into the Lunatic Asylum, shall be maintained therein at the expense of the State."

Year.	Amount.
For the year ending Nov. 15, 1840 -----	\$3,141 34
1841 -----	3,067 03
1842 -----	2,304 67
1843 -----	2,529 66
1844 -----	3,581 91
1845 -----	3,398 52
1846 -----	4,087 94
1847 -----	5,835 26
1848 -----	5,543 36
1849 -----	5,972 01
1850 -----	5,086 46
From Nov. 15, 1850, to March 4, 1851 -----	1,735 63
	<hr/> 46,283 79

TABLE showing the amount available, exclusive of salaries, etc., for the support of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum, for each year from its opening, 30th November, 1838, as shown by Reports of Treasurer.

1839 -----	\$18,925 67	1848 -----	\$38,334 78
1840 -----	22,365 92	1849 -----	44,402 17
1841 -----	15,170 48	1850 -----	42,252 33
1842 -----	19,357 85	1851 -----	46,152 62
1843 -----	21,651 63	1852 -----	35,605 88
1844 -----	19,138 98	1853 -----	35,726 63
1845 -----	22,309 70	1854 -----	35,526 63
1846 -----	23,351 07	1855 -----	30,000 00
1847 -----	34,323 88		

The expenses of this Institution for the year ending Nov. 15, 1854, were \$42,306 30. The expenses for the year ending Nov. 15, 1855, when the outstanding debt is paid, will amount to \$41,921 40.

The appropriations made for the years 1854 and 1855 were less than the Board thought necessary to meet its expenses for those two periods. There was a debt of more than \$7,000 hanging over this Institution when the present Board took charge of it. Though the Board have mentioned this fact in their former reports, and urged that funds be provided to meet it, no appropriation was made. The funds provided for the general expenses were therefore necessarily applied to that purpose. To meet this debt, and pay the expenses for the year 1854, the Board were compelled to anticipate a portion of the appropriations for the year 1855. Before half the fiscal year had elapsed, the Board found themselves destitute of the means with which to carry on the Institution. This temporary embarrassment was relieved by advances made by a portion of the officers and trustees. But the private means which these gentlemen could command, were not equal to the wants

of the Institution ; and the Board would have been compelled to suspend it, had not the Governor of the State applied his contingent fund to that purpose.

The present indebtedness of the Institution is as follows :

Household expenses-----	\$16,897 20
Steam heating apparatus, about-----	4,500 00
Water closets-----	1,500 00
Steam boiler-----	1,128 21

Of this indebtedness, as before stated, over \$7,000 existed at the time the present Board was organized. The increase in the expenses is attributed to the very rapid and general advance in the price of the principal articles of food. The effect of it has been felt in all the public Institutions of the country. The Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital, in their report for 1854, in speaking on this subject, say : " The average weekly expense of each patient was \$5,46, which is larger than for several previous years, and is to be accounted for by the high prices of provisions, fuel, wages, and other necessary expenses of the house." The trustees of the Butler Hospital, in their report for the same year, say, that the means applicable to the support of their Institution " would have been amply sufficient, had not prices continued to rise, in a manner unexampled in the history of our country."

Individuals, as well as public institutions, have felt the draft upon their purses, made by the prices of the last two years.

The Board have enjoined upon the officers of this and the other institutions under their charge, the importance of frugality and economy in the administration of them ; they believe that their injunction has been obeyed, and that no expense has been incurred which the people of the State would not approve, and which the object to be obtained would not fully justify.

The following table will show the amounts expended on similar objects by other States, and will enable any one to institute a comparison between the expenditures of the several asylums named.

Name of Institution.	Year.	No. of Patients.	Expenses.
Bloomington Asylum-----	1853	119	\$35,723 82
do do -----	1854	129	39,151 76
New York State Asylum-----	1853	446	78,558 81
do do -----	1854	444	87,451 68
Pennsylvania Lunatic Asylum-----	1853	229	53,044 79
do do -----	1854	214	54,766 54
McLain Asylum-----	1853	194	41,364 31
do do -----	1854	195	46,724 31
Illinois State Hospital-----	1853 and 1854	124	53,819 56
Louisiana Asylum -----	1852 and 1853	60	20,236 66
Tennessee Hospital-----	1853	100	33,996 74
Missouri Asylum-----	1853 and 1854	82	46,885 30
California Asylum-----	1853	103	86,448 08
Indiana Hospital-----	1853	163	39,641 00
do do -----	1854	160	26,382 13
Ohio Lunatic Asylum-----	1854	260	42,306 30
do do -----	1855	233	41,921 40



The legislation respecting the admission of pupils and patients into the different Institutions has been such as to require an increase in the annual appropriations for their support. Previous to March, 1851, all persons who could not produce certificates that they were worth less than five hundred dollars after the payment of their debts, were required to defray their own expenses in the Lunatic Asylum. The average amount received from this source annually, was over four thousand dollars, which was applied to the support of the Institution. The law of March 4, 1851, cut off this revenue, and required all persons then in the Asylum, and thereafter admitted, to be supported at the expense of the State. An additional annual burden of four or five thousand dollars was thus thrown upon the State Treasury.

In these remarks, the Board do not wish to be understood as disapproving of the law of the 4th March, 1851; on the contrary it seems but just that the tax payers of the State, who have contributed to the support of the Asylum in proportion to the amount of their taxable property, should receive in return the measure of relief which it can afford to their misfortunes. In this point of view it is a great mutual relief Institution, to the support of which every citizen contributes according to his ability, with the privilege of enjoying its benefits in case mental derangement overtakes him.

The Asylum may thus be considered a portion of the State; and the people are interested in having it properly sustained, richly endowed, and affording the very best facilities for restoring the insane to reason. Who can say that he will never have occasion to avail himself of its advantages? The better the hospital, the sooner the patient will recover. The sooner he is restored to health and reason, the better for himself and the State, both in a moral and economical point of view.

The Board, however, think that some changes might be advantageously made in the present laws regulating the Lunatic Asylums of the State.

It is well known that many of the counties of the State have not facilities for providing properly for the insane. It is equally well known that the friends of many insane persons would prefer to keep them in some institution devoted exclusively to the care of the insane, rather than take them to their homes, or permit them to go to the county Infirmaries.

Three Lunatic Asylums will probably afford moreroom than is necessary for all the insane of the State who are likely to be restored to reason. The law now requires that, when a patient is pronounced incurable, he shall be returned to the county whence he came. The Board think that it would be advisable to permit some of these incurables, especially those who are subject to violent paroxysms, or have homicidal or suicidal tendencies, to be retained in the Asylum. Should this recommendation meet the approbation of the General Assembly, a law should be passed requiring such incurables, their friends, or the counties of which they are residents, to pay their expenses. It should also be provided that this class of cases should always give way to those of recent origin. The Asylums should be open at all times to curable cases.

In 1850 there were thirteen hundred and thirty-five insane persons in this State; six hundred and ninety-five males, and six hundred and forty females.

Four hundred and eighty-nine were natives of the State; five hundred and sixty-eight natives of the United States; two hundred and eighteen foreigners; the nativity of the remaining sixty was not ascertained.

Twenty-eight were under ten years of age; one hundred and two, ten and under twenty; six hundred and thirteen, twenty and under thirty; five hundred and thirty-seven, forty and under sixty; one hundred and forty-one, sixty and under eighty; fourteen, eighty and upward.

The proportion which the number of insane persons bear to the whole population of the State is as 1 to 1,483.

In the United States, the proportion of insane persons to the total population is as 1 to 1,549.

The law of 19th March, 1850, providing for the government of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum, authorizes the proper authorities to send to the Institution insane prisoners. A few of this class of patients have been admitted. They are necessarily placed in the same apartments with the others. They are generally troublesome, ungovernable, and unfit companions for the patients with whom we are compelled to allow them to associate. Having no secure place to keep them, they are liable to escape, and inflict upon community a repetition of their crimes.

The interests of society require that this class of patients should be securely kept and carefully guarded. There are no apartments in the Asylum properly adapted for the purpose.

We respectfully suggest that provision should be made in the Penitentiary for the proper care and treatment of this class of insane persons. There, under the charge of the physician and attendants, they could receive the treatment which their condition requires. The greater security of the place would prevent their escape.

The law relative to holding of inquests of lunacy previous to admission of patients into the Asylum, requires revision. There has been a conflict between the Probate Judges and Justices of the Peace upon this subject. In some counties both claim jurisdiction in these cases; in others the Probate Judges have declined to act. The whole difficulty arises from the apparent conflict between the law of March 19, 1850, for the Government of the Lunatic Asylum, and the probate code passed March 14, 1853. The former vests this power in Justices of the Peace, and prescribes the mode of procedure. The latter vests exclusive jurisdiction in inquests of lunacy in the Probate Judges, without prescribing the legal proceedings.

The appropriations which it will be necessary to make for this Institution are as follows:

For the year 1856:—

General expenses.....	\$36,600
Salaries of Superintendent, &c.....	3,200
Salary of Chaplain .....	200
Repairs and improvements .....	1,000

For the year 1857:—

General expenses.....	36,600
Salaries of Superintendent, &c.....	3,200
Salary of Chaplain .....	200
Repairs and improvements .....	1,000

## INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

France has the honor of having established the first Institution for the instruction of the blind in science and mechanical arts.

As early as 1260 the hospital for the Three Hundred (commonly called the *Quinze-vingt*.) was founded by St. Louis, after his crusade in Egypt, during which a great number of his soldiers became blind by the ophthalmia prevailing in that country. Instruction can hardly be said to have fallen within the scope of his design; and the Institution, instead of presenting a pleasing picture of intellectual cultivation, was rather a scene of dullness and moral corruption.

The first idea for the establishment of an Institution for the education of the blind, was conceived by Valentine Haüy. It was suggested to him by his acquaintance with a blind German lady, who displayed great skill in playing upon the



organ, and who had acquired a very accurate knowledge in several branches of science. He found this unfortunate class of his countrymen in the most degraded condition—objects of ridicule rather than compassion. He resolved to redeem them from their ignorance and degradation, and to do for the blind of France what the Abbe de l'Epee had done for the deaf and dumb. Taking a poor blind boy, who displayed an active mind, into his house, he instructed him for some time, and then presented him to the philanthropic society of Paris. This society furnished him with means to establish an Institution for twelve pupils. In 1791, it was established under royal patronage, and united with the Institution for the deaf and dumb. But it soon appeared that these two classes of unfortunates did not agree, and in 1794 they were divided.

The Institution which Haüy founded is still in existence, and is the model generally adopted in the United States—combining musical and mental instruction with mechanical work.

The second Institution for the education of the blind was established in England. In 1790 an Institution was founded in Liverpool, supported by private contributions, in which the pupils were instructed principally in manual labor, singing and playing on the organ.

All the Institutions of this kind in Great Britain are supported by the contributions of private individuals. The government makes no appropriations for their support.

In the course of a few years after the success of the Abbe Haüy became known, similar Institutions were established and supported by the principal States of Europe.

The first Institution for the education of the blind in the United States, was commenced in Boston in 1829, under the name of the New England Asylum for the Blind. Though this is the date of its act of incorporation, it did not go into operation until 1832. In honor of one of its benefactors, its name was subsequently changed to the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind. This peaceful Asylum is the successor of a military establishment. It stands upon the ruins of a fortification, where, in the war of the Revolution, cannons were leveled for the destruction of human life.

The Institutions of New York and Pennsylvania, sprung up almost simultaneously, with that of Massachusetts. At the present time most of the States in the Union have their Institutions for the education of the blind.

The establishment of the Ohio Institution for the instruction of the blind was subsequent to that of the other two Asylums. On the 11th of March 1836, the General Assembly appointed a Board of Trustees to collect information relative to the education of the blind, in letters and mechanical arts. This Board were directed to make a full report upon the subject, together with the probable expense of commencing a school. In the discharge of their duty they corresponded with all those who were then interested in the elevation of this unfortunate class, and endeavored to ascertain the number then in the State. In December 1836, this information was communicated to the General Assembly in a very elaborate report. They stated that they had obtained information of two hundred and ninety-one blind persons in the State, but thought that there were many more of whom no account had been given by the county officers to whom they had applied. Of the number above stated, sixty were under the age of sixteen years.

On the 3d of April 1837, an act was passed making provisions for the education of the blind of the State. Ten thousand dollars were appropriated for the erection of a building and the purchase of books and apparatus.

The lot of ground on which this Institution stands was donated to the State by several benevolent citizens of Columbus.



The school was opened in the Presbyterian Church on the 4th of July 1837, in the presence of a large concourse of citizens who had assembled to celebrate the sixty-first anniversary of our National Independence. Mr. A. W. Penniman, a graduate of the Massachusetts Asylum, was the first instructor employed. He continued his connection with the Institution until 1852.

The buildings which had been commenced in 1837 were completed in 1839, and the Institution removed to its present location in October of the latter year. Since that date it has imparted to all who have chosen to apply for admission, all the benefits of customary instruction.

The present number of pupils in the Institution is fifty-two.

In 1850, there were in this State six hundred and forty-two blind persons—371 males and 271 females. Of these, two hundred and twenty-two were natives of the State—three hundred and forty-four of the United States—seventy-two of foreign birth—and four whose places of nativity were unknown.

The proportion of blind persons, to the whole population of the State, is as 1 to 3,084.

The expenses of the Institution for the blind have been as follows :

For the year ending Nov. 15, 1854, -----	\$11,828 66
For the year ending Nov. 15, 1855, -----	13,331 80

That the whole expenses of the Institution from its foundation to the present time may be seen at a glance, the Board have compiled the following table, showing the amount of each appropriation and for what purpose made:

TABLE, showing the amount appropriated to the Institution for the Blind, from 1837 to the present time.

Year.	Appropriations	For what purpose.
1837.....	\$10,000	Building, tuition, books, &c.
1838.....	15,000	Building, and contingent expenses.
1839.....	10,000	Building, and expenses.
1840.....	8,500	Building, and expenses.
1841.....	6,000	Building, Furniture and expenses.
.....	500	Shop
1842.....	6,000	Expenses.
1843.....	5,000	Repairs, Furniture and expenses.
1844.....	2,500	Expenses.
1845.....	2,000	Expenses.
.....	250	Clothing indigent pupils.
1846.....	4,200	Salaries of Superintendent and Teachers.
.....	500	Salary of Steward.
.....	3,000	Expenses.
.....	500	Contingent expenses, Fuel, &c.
1847.....	3,600	Salaries.
.....	3,000	Expenses.
.....	1,240	Books, repairs, &c.
.....	160	Land.
1848.....	4,000	Salaries.
.....	5,000	Expenses.
.....	1,600	Land.
1849.....	4,800	Salaries.
.....	5,200	Expenses.
.....	2,500	Expenses.
1850.....	1,500	Salaries of Superintendent and Steward.
.....	3,500	Salaries of Teachers, &c.
.....	5,500	Expenses.
1851.....	1,500	Salaries of Superintendent and Steward.
.....	3,500	Salaries of Teachers, &c.
.....	5,500	Expenses.
1852.....	2,000	Expenses.
.....	1,500	Salaries of Superintendent and Steward.
.....	3,500	Salaries of Teachers, &c.
.....	3,500	Expenses.
.....	1,000	Expenses.
1853.....	1,500	Salaries of Superintendent and Steward.
.....	4,000	Salaries of Physician, Teachers, &c.
.....	6,000	Expenses
.....	500	Out houses.
1854.....	1,500	Expenses.
.....	5,500	Salaries.
.....	2,000	Artisans and assistants.
.....	2,500	Expenses.
.....	2,000	Books, Stationery, instruments, &c.
1855.....	6,000	Salaries.
.....	2,000	Artisans and assistants.
.....	4,000	Expenses.
.....	2,000	Repairs, Books, &c.
.....	2,500	Land.

By the law of 1838, the Trustees were authorized to receive but twelve pupils to be supported at the expense of the State ; all above that number were required to pay the cost of their tuition and board. In March, 1843, the General Assembly removed this restriction, and authorized the Board to "admit as many suitable pupils as in their discretion they shall deem necessary and proper." The whole cost of supporting the Institution, was thus thrown upon the State treasury.

Though this Legislation has increased the expenses of the establishment, it has also extended the benefits of instruction and the means of livelihood to many who would otherwise have remained in ignorance, and been charges upon the public.

The appropriations necessary to be made for the support of the Institution for the Blind, are as follows :

For the year 1856 :—

For salaries of Superintendent, Steward, Matron and Physician.	\$2 000
For salaries of Teachers and Assistants.....	4,000
For current expenses.....	7,000

For the year 1857, the same amounts will be necessary.

In making the estimates for this and the other Institutions, we have put down the amounts which, after a careful examination, we believe to be necessary for their support, and nothing more.

Four vacancies will occur in the Board during the coming year. The terms of service of John McCook and Oliver H. Perry, who were appointed by the Governor, to fill vacancies which occurred since the adjournment of the last General Assembly, will expire on the first Monday in January next. The terms of Thomas Sparrow and David Robb, will expire on the first Monday in June next. It will therefore be necessary to appoint three Trustees for six years, and one for two years.

The appropriation of \$600, made four years ago, to defray the expenses of the members of the Board of Trustees, is exhausted, and some of the Trustees are not paid for their attendance upon the last two meetings of the Board. An appropriation of \$500 should be made, to pay these debts and defray the expenses of the Board for the next two years.

E. C. ROOT, President.  
DAVID ROBB,  
HIRAM B. SMITH,  
JOHN GREENLEAF,  
S. H. WEBB,  
JOHN MCCOOK,  
THOMAS SPARROW,  
HENRY WILSON.



# INSTITUTION

## FOR THE

### EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

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#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE AD INTERIM.

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TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS OF OHIO :

The Committee *ad interim* take pleasure in being able to report the general prosperity of the Institution for the Blind. Nothing of an adverse or discouraging nature has occurred to affect its usefulness. All connected with it have enjoyed usual health. The Superintendent, teachers and other officers have continued to perform their duties in a faithful and successful manner. The pupils have rewarded the labors of their instructors by their diligence and the progress which they have made in their studies.

Since the last annual meeting of the Board, the following changes have taken place among the officers and teachers of the Institution :

On the 21st of April, Mr. M. N. Hutchinson, in consequence of the failure of his health, resigned his situation as teacher. This vacancy was temporarily filled by the appointment of Mr. J. A. Scarritt. In July, Mr. John F. Follett, a graduate of Marietta College, was permanently appointed in the place of Mr. Hutchinson.

On the 19th May, Miss Amanda M. Bryan resigned her situation, and Mr. J. A. Scarritt was appointed teacher in her place.

Mrs. C. B. Cook resigned her position as Matron of the Institution on the 1st of March, and on the 19th, Mrs. E. B. Story was appointed in her place.

The following is a statement of the condition of the appropriations for the years 1854 and 1855, showing the amounts still in the treasury, after paying officers' salaries to January 1, 1856, and teachers' salaries to December 13, 1855:

Appropriations.	1854.	1855.	Whole amt for 2 years.	Amount Drawn.	Over- drawn.	Amount in Treasury.
For Household Expenses	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$6,500	\$6,526 38	\$26 38	
Salaries of Officers..	5,500	5,500	11,000	9,611 84		\$1,388 16
Artisans & Assist'nts	2,000	2,000	4,000	3,199 55		800 45
Repairs, Books, &c.	2,000	2,000	4,000	3,376 36		62 364

There is now a debt of about \$2,300 contracted for household expenses, the appropriation for which has been exhausted. There is nearly \$2,800 in the treasury to the credit of the Institution appropriated to other purposes; leaving a balance of nearly \$500 to the credit of the Institution after paying all expenses for two years.

The expenses of the Institution for the Blind for the last two years have been:

For the year 1854.....	\$11,828 66
For the year 1855.....	13,331 80

Your Committee have made an estimate of the appropriations necessary for the years 1856 and 1857. They are of the opinion that the following sums are necessary to carry on the Institution for the next two years:

For the year 1856—

For salaries of Superintendent, Steward, Matron and Physician.....	\$2,000 00
Salaries of Teachers and Assistants.....	4,000 00
Current Expenses and Repairs.....	7,000 00

For the year 1857, we believe the same amounts will be necessary.

We herewith submit a catalogue of the officers and other persons employed in the Institution.

JOHN GREENLEAF,  
THOS. SPARROW.

December 2, 1855.

LIST OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN THE OHIO INSTITUTION FOR  
THE BLIND.

Names.	Occupation.	Compensation.
R. E. Harte.....	Superintendent.....	\$1,000 Per Annum.
C. K. Cuc ler.....	Teacher.....	800 " "
J. F. Follett.....	do.....	800 " "
J. A. Scarritt.....	do.....	600 " "
H. J. Notbnagel.....	Teacher of Music.....	800 " "
Miss A. M. Be gundthal.....	do do.....	150 " "
Dr. J. Dawson.....	Physician.....	200 " "
H. Hauenstien.....	Teacher in Mechanics.....	600 " "
D. L. Holton.....	Steward.....	500 " "
Mrs E. B. Story.....	Matron.....	300 " "
Mrs. M. M. Gunning.....	Assistant Matron.....	3 " week.
Miss Jane Munnell.....	Visitors' Attendant.....	1 " "
Jane Keyhoe.....	Baker.....	2 " "
Ann Keyhoe.....	Cook.....	2 " "
Ellen Jones.....	Laundress.....	2 " "
Dinah Thomas.....	do.....	2 " "
Bridget Delaney.....	Chamber-Maid.....	2 " "
Julia Byrne.....	In Dining Room.....	1 50 per week.
Jacob Rau.....	Porter.....	15 per month.
Jacob Young.....	Gardener.....	15 " "



## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

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*To the Board of Trustees of Benevolent Institutions of Ohio :*

GENTLEMEN :—I respectfully present to you the following report of the history and condition of the Institution for the education of the Blind, for the year eighteen hundred and fifty-five.

The number of blind persons inmates of the Institution during the year, was sixty-six, of these five were employed in the work department only, learning trades, one engaged as teacher, and one as assistant.

The number of admissions during the year was twenty-two,—seventeen to the school and five to the work department.

Of the seventeen admitted to the school the average age is about thirteen years. Seven of the number are totally blind, two can distinguish light, and eight are only pur-blind. Of those totally blind, in four cases, and of the pur-blind in three cases, the blindness or pur-blindness was congenital.

The annexed catalogue contains the names of scholars and workmen who were in attendance last term or the present.

The health of the pupils during the last year has been remarkably good. No death has occurred, and no case of severe or prolonged illness.

In the school, the teachers have been prompt and faithful in the discharge of their duties, and the pupils diligent in study, and generally correct in deportment. Their progress in learning has been altogether satisfactory.

The course of intellectual instruction heretofore pursued in this Institution, has been about the same as that known as the scientific course, or the Higher English course, introduced into some of the American colleges. A course entirely rejecting the study of the classics and embracing the pure mathematics, the natural sciences, moral and mental philosophy, history, and English literature. During the past year the study of the Latin language has been introduced in place of some of the higher branches of the mathematics and experimental sciences, with the intention of making the study of the classics a prominent feature in the course of instruction to be hereafter pursued in this Institution. I will again refer to this subject and state some of the reasons why the study of the classics is particularly desirable in schools for the Blind.

It is now about seventy years since the benevolent Abbe Hau y invented the method for printing books which can be read by the blind. This invention which at the time was thought to be very wonderful, and produced quite a sensation in the French capital, was the cause of soon directing the attention of the benevolent and of governments, to the then much neglected class of blind persons, and to the propriety of making general and systematic efforts for the amelioration of their condition. Institutions for the blind were established on the continent of Europe, in Great Britain, and in due time in this country.

It may be worth while to enquire what these Institutions have effected toward the objects for which they were established, and whether their organization, support and management are such as to accomplish everything which a benevolent and liberal community have a right to expect.

The founder and director of the Institute for Blind children, at Vienna, J. Wilhelm Klein, says that the great objects of educating the blind are to afford them

the means of acquiring knowledge by their own exertions, to develop their capabilities and make them useful, to render their existence more agreeable, and to make them as much like their seeing brethren as possible. In an article published twenty-five years ago in the *North American Review*, the author states that the fundamental object proposed in every scheme for the education of the blind, is to direct the attention of the pupil to those studies and mechanic arts which he will be able afterward to pursue by means of his own exertions and resources without any external aid. In an article from the same *Review* published three years afterward, the author says that the aim in educating the blind should be to enable them to pass their lives pleasantly and usefully in some constant occupation which shall insure to them a competent livelihood. These are philanthropic views, and such, no doubt, as actuated the benevolent men, and the legislators who established the now numerous schools for the blind, and such as yet influence communities in so cheerfully and liberally contributing to their support and maintenance. Hence it appears that from schools for the blind, more is expected than from the ordinary schools, academies, and colleges. It is expected of them not only to adopt such series of instruction and discipline as shall tend to develop and strengthen the intellectual and physical faculties and moral nature, but also to perfect their scholars in some special art or calling, the exercise of which after leaving school, shall afford them agreeable and constant employment, and a competent support, not in communities of the blind, but in the community. To what extent have these expectations been realized? In Great Britain, Institutions for the blind have been in existence for something more than half a century. The chaplain of the largest and one of the oldest schools, in an article written one year ago, says, that for the intellectual culture of the blind little more has been yet accomplished in England than teaching them to read, write, and cipher, and even thus far only in the best of the schools, with any degree of accuracy or skill. From a late report of the Victoria Institution at Newcastle it seems that there, in addition to reading and arithmetic, classes were examined in grammar, geography and astronomy; and the Institutions at York and Bristol have been favorably spoken of for the attention paid to the mental culture of their inmates. In the London school, as reported by the chaplain, the extent of the ciphering is, that the four simple rules of arithmetic are studied by the upper classes of boys and girls. Without referring more particularly to the numerous Institutions for the Blind in Great Britain, and the course of study adopted in each, it may be said of them that generally they are not schools in the ordinary acceptance of that term, but establishments where indigent blind children are received and taught some mechanic arts, by the exercise of which, in after life, their parishes may be wholly or in part, relieved from the burden of their support.

At this time, however, public attention in England is called to the condition of the blind there, and philanthropic men are making strenuous exertions for the establishment of Institutions of a higher grade, where the blind can have their intellectual faculties fully developed, and the means afforded of making themselves more useful, contented, and happy. It can be said of the English Institutions, that they have not failed to bestow much attention to the study of music. They have been quite successful in the training of organists, and experience there has proved that their pupils, after leaving the Institution, are better able to maintain themselves as organists and teachers of the piano, than by the exercise of any mechanical trade they may have acquired.

In Germany the Institutions for the Blind are numerous, but appear to be conducted on a diminutive scale, and generally on the model of the English Institutions, much work, some music, and very little attention to intellectual culture.

The great school for the education of the blind is the "Institution Imperiale des Jeunes Aveugles," at Paris. It was the first of the kind ever established, for



many years has been sustained by the direct patronage of the French government, its internal arrangements appear to be systematic and permanent, and it has met with great success in accomplishing the objects for which it was instituted. This being the model school for the blind, it may serve a useful purpose to refer, in this connection, to the mode in which it is conducted and the course of instruction adopted. As stated in Dr. Dunglison's letter published last year, after a visit to the Institutions for the Blind in Europe, the instruction afforded to the pupils in this celebrated French school is intellectual, musical, and industrial. The intellectual instruction is divided into the primary and superior.

The course of primary instruction extends over four years and comprises reading, writing, sacred history, grammar, geography, arithmetic, general notions of ancient and natural history, and the history of France.

The course of superior instruction comprises geometry, physics and cosmography, literature, general history and political geography, and general notions of public, administrative and private law. Appropriate readings are undertaken before the different classes and so combined as to make them acquainted with the best productions of ancient and modern literature.

The musical instruction comprises singing, practice on one or more instruments, and especially a school for composition, the organ, and the tuning of pianos.

The industrial instruction comprises, for the boys, the making of baskets, brushes, mats, chair seats, turning, thread and rope making; and for the girls, spinning, knitting and various forms of net, straw and bead work.

Upon comparing the foregoing with the courses of instruction as set forth in the reports of the Institutions for the Blind in this country, it will appear that the American schools are copies of the French; and since in the American schools the pupils are received at less mature age, less time allowed for completing their education, and a less numerous corps of teachers employed, in these respects at least, the copies, like most copies, are inferior to the original. But in the model school itself, is the course of instruction pursued, such an one as is best calculated to effect the object designed?

It appears that about one-third of the time is devoted to intellectual pursuits, and of this, especially in the superior course, much the largest portion is expended on the study of the mathematics. The blind are thought to be usually more pensive and moody than others in their habits and dispositions, and from the circumstance that their inferiority in a great measure shuts them out from an observation of the external world and a consequent knowledge of facts which are continually being presented to the minds of others, it may reasonably be inferred that such is the case. One object of the education of the blind being to make them as much like their seeing brethren as possible, evidently the course of their instruction should be such as to counteract any tendency to moodishness or other peculiarity, and to supply, as far as possible, through the sense of hearing, what others more readily attain through the sense of sight. The study of the pure mathematics is not calculated to effect either of these objects. Instead of counteracting any abnormal tendency to pensiveness, it is likely to increase it, and instead of supplying external facts and observations, in which the blind are deficient, it offers mere abstraction, in which they abound.

Scarcely more can be said in favor of any thorough study, in schools for the blind, of the mixed mathematics and the natural sciences. True, these subjects present facts which should be known, but so far as a mere knowledge of the facts is concerned, all that is desirable can be better presented in familiar lectures. And although a thorough study of these branches may tend to develop the intellectual faculties, yet to this end some other studies are better, and not liable to the objection of utter inutility for any direct and practical benefit.

One object in educating the blind is said to be, to enable them to pass their lives pleasantly and usefully in some constant occupation which shall insure them a competent livelihood. Witness to what extent this object is effected by the schools modeled on the French plan.

A class of half a score of young men and women have completed their education and are about to leave the Institution. In addition to the elementary branches, they have acquired a thorough knowledge of geometry, analytical geometry, the calculus and astronomy; they understand trigonometry, mensuration, surveying, civil engineering and navigation; and have studied natural philosophy, chemistry, mineralogy, geology and botany; two of them having a talent for music, have perfected themselves in a knowledge of that science and are excellent performers of the organ and piano. The young men have acquired a trade, and the young women know how to make bread baskets, to knit, and do some coarse sewing. They leave the school with the expectation of filling some useful place in society. The musicians possessing a skill and knowledge which are in demand, and which, notwithstanding their blindness, they can readily impart to others, are employed as organists in churches, or are called upon to teach their art, and thus obtain pleasant and profitable occupation. The others also possess valuable knowledge. They understand the science of civil engineering, &c., but their want of sight prevents them from making any application of their knowledge to engineering or surveying as an art, and the only direct practical benefit they can derive from their learning, is to teach to others the sciences which they have learned.

Their services as teachers of the higher branches of the mathematics and of the natural sciences, are not in demand, for these subjects are but seldom taught out of the colleges, and furthermore, in teaching most of the natural sciences, numerous experiments are desirable and resorted to, and these, of course, can be better performed by the seeing.

Their employment as teachers of the elementary branches in the common schools is not to be expected, from the apprehension and almost certainty, that the requisite order and decorum would not be preserved. There is no good reason, however, why their services should not be sought in high schools, academies and seminaries, as assistant teachers of English grammar, mental arithmetic and mental algebra; but as yet instances of such engagements are rare and at best the field is but small.

As respects the young men, the industrial instruction given is more likely to afford them occupation and support. With the knowledge of some simple trade, like that of broom making, in which there everywhere exists a market for the manufactured article, with industry and the aid of friends in procuring the necessary tools and stock, there need be but little apprehension of failure to procure an independent livelihood; yet among the blind, as well as the seeing, there are some minds which will not be contented with such employment, but will desire, if possible, to pursue some calling more intellectual and remunerative.

The industrial instruction given to the young women, is worth to them, as a means of livelihood after they leave the Institution, almost literally nothing. There is scarcely any demand for their fancy bead work, and all they can do at knitting and sewing is of very little value. If it be true, therefore, as stated, that Institutions for the Blind have in view not only the general education of their pupils, but a course of instruction designed to effect purposes similar to those contemplated in the establishment of professional schools, it will be seen that so far as relates to this latter purpose, they have in a measure failed to accomplish their object. It is this view of the subject which has led me to the conclusion that a modification of the course of instruction heretofore pursued would be advisable. That our Ohio school at least, should venture to leave a track, which, though well beaten, certainly does not lead directly to the contemplated destination.



The course of intellectual instruction which recommends itself to my mind as the one best adapted to accomplish the ends in view, is the following: The school should consist of two departments, the academical and the collegiate. In the academical department, in classes varied to suit the varying circumstances, and extending over such period of time as in each several case the age and capacity of the pupil may require, should be taught the common English branches.

In the collegiate department, a definite period of time should be allowed, and the course of study should be fixed and permanent, suited to ordinary capacities, but not varied to accommodate the whims of either scholar or teacher. To this department, at the commencement of each school year, if possible, should be admitted from the academical department, a class composed of such pupils and such only, as have manifested an ability to learn, and can pass a satisfactory examination in the required preparatory studies.

The course of instruction should embrace studies and lectures. The studies should be the English, Latin and Greek languages and literature, algebra and geometry. The lectures should embrace astronomy, natural philosophy, the natural sciences, and ethics, and in most instances attempt to give little more than a general knowledge of the subjects. It will be seen the plan has not the demerit of being new, it being substantially the same as that adopted in most colleges, with the exception that the mathematical course is less extended, and the English classics are made a more prominent feature in the regular studies of the school. Such a modification of the French course appears to me advisable from the fact that the blind can make no direct and practical application of their knowledge of the higher branches of mathematics, however extensive and thorough that knowledge may be, and their instruction in these branches can have no other object than the development of the mental faculties and the indirect advantages to be derived therefrom.

All this can be as well, perhaps better, accomplished by the study of a new language. The Latin language and the Greek, being regular in their structure, are admirably adapted for exercising the mental faculties, in determining and applying the laws which govern them. A thorough study of these languages requires more than a mere effort of the memory. The principles of their construction are to be investigated. The languages are to be analyzed. They are to be examined with reference to their elements; and roots, terminations, prefixes and affixes, are to be re-embodied into words, and words re-embodied into sentences. To do this requires strict attention and a constant exercise and discipline of memory and judgment.

The study of language is also desirable in any scheme for the education of the blind on account of the information to be derived from such study, comprehending not only the facts, reasonings, and opinions set forth in the work studied, but the many other facts and circumstances necessary to be communicated by the instructors in elucidation of the general subject.

It may be claimed for a course of instruction in the ancient and modern classics as a system of general education merely, and without reference to a profession, that it serves to develop intellect and to impart varied and useful information, to endow a capability of appreciating the power of language, and of using it with elegance and effect, to induce vivacity of temper and behaviour instead of moodiness of disposition, in short, that it enables the student to know something, and to say something, and thus to contribute his share towards the welfare of the community, and the enjoyment of the social circle.

But more than this, such an education enables its possessor, although blind, to do something for his own support and maintenance.

It at once places him in a high position in the profession of teaching; and to the teaching of the Latin and Greek, blindness is even less an obstacle than to the teaching of music or to the practice of the most simple mechanic art. Indeed as the acquisition of a new language by the blind must be by a method somewhat

similar to that by which children learn the vernacular, it may be supposed that they will attain a greater colloquial familiarity with it, and as teachers of the same, will from the necessity of the case, be likely to inspire greater interest and zest, in the minds of the learners, than results from the uninteresting grammar and dictionary process usually pursued.

I have made these observations on the course of instruction proper to be pursued in Institutions for the Blind, not for the purpose of inducing at this time any special action by your Board in reference to the matter, but to call the attention of those interested in such subjects to the fact, that although these Institutions have in this country succeeded well in conferring on the pupils a general education, and which of itself it above all price, yet as professional schools, so far as relates to the young women who happen not to have a talent for music, they have failed to accomplish the object desired.

The modification of the course of instruction as suggested, may to some extent remedy the defect. More important suggestions on the subject may be made by others.

An important consideration connected with the education, welfare, and happiness of the blind, is the want of books printed for their use.

It is now about three quarters of a century since the method of printing in raised characters was invented, and yet, at this time, the whole library for the blind consists of the Bible, an unfinished encyclopedia, two or three short biographies, and a few elementary school books. Not one classical work in the English or Latin language has been printed, though there is now in process of publication a small edition of Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

The little that has hitherto been done towards furnishing the blind with books to enlighten their minds, and cheer their lonely hours, has been done by individual charity. Such efforts have now almost entirely ceased, and it is pretty evident that the blind must live out their lives without the solace to be derived from books, or the books for their use must be furnished by the liberality of the community, exercised through the agency of the Government.

The whole subject of the art of printing for the blind, the history of its progress, improvements, and attempted improvements, its present condition, and the good it is capable of effecting, is interesting and well worthy the attention of legislators.

There exists no occasion for calling your attention to any special wants of this Institution. The grounds are ample in extent, the buildings are in good repair, are comfortable, and afford sufficient accommodations. Able and efficient instructors are employed, and the scholars are nobly striving for their own advancement in learning, and to improve their capabilities for usefulness in life, thus giving assurance that future interest and liberality by the community in their behalf, will be fully requited in the mode desired.

Respectfully submitted.

R. E. HARTE.

COLUMBUS, Dec. 3, 1855.



## PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

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### *To the Trustees of the Benevolent Institutions :*

The past year in many localities, both in and out of our State, has been characterized with the prevalence of a large amount of disease. From this, however, in a great degree, the pupils of the Institution for the education of Blind, have been exempt. While quite a number have experienced slight attacks of illness, but very few grave cases have made their appearance, and these have had a favorable issue. The pupils at the present time are in the enjoyment of excellent health.

To the superior character of the hygienic regulations put in operation and industriously sustained by those having charge of the Institution, it gives me pleasure to bear my testimony. Asthetics, dietetics, bathing, exercise, etc., do more than is generally supposed in abridging the sickness and mortality of public Institutions, where great numbers are kept together under the same roof.

While most of those admitted to the Institution are found to be laboring under incurable forms of blindness, it once in a while happens that cases present themselves which are found to be amenable to the resources of the oculist. Two of this character made their appearance since the date of my last report. Both of them were affected with the disease called "*Cataract*," which rendered them unable to distinguish objects, or go about the building without great inconvenience. One of these John Whetmore, aged 17, has been blind since three years old. He was operated on in March last. He is now able to recognize objects, and in a short time will be able to see sufficiently to prosecute almost any kind of business. The other case, D. Winegarner, aged 17, has been blind ten years. He was operated on a few weeks since, and at present, his prospects are very good for the recovery of his sight.

In last year's report it was suggested that as the designs of the Institution contemplated the education of those only, who prove to be affected with an incurable form of blindness, the Board of Trustees might pass a rule requiring all applicants for admission to undergo an examination by the Physician of the Institution, with reference to the curability of their eyes. Perhaps this matter, inasmuch as it is a custom that has obtained in Institutions of similar character elsewhere, and would undoubtedly relieve the officers of our Institution of some embarrassment, is still worthy of your consideration.

JOHN DAWSON.

## MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT.

## BOYS.

1854.		Dr.
November 15.	To brooms on hand.....	\$100 00
" "	Materials on hand for broom making.....	1,380 20
" "	Materials purchased during the year.....	133 71
" "	Manufactured brushes on hand.....	107 00
" "	Materials on hand for brush making.....	361 01
" "	" " " basket making.....	69 00
" "	Cash paid the boys for over-work.....	27 15
		<hr/>
		\$2,178 07

## BOYS.

1855.		Cr.
November 15.	By amount of brooms sold during the year.....	\$824 59
" "	Amount of handles sold during the year.....	28 12
" "	Amount of brooms on hand.....	801 00
" "	Materials on hand for broom making.....	79 25
" "	Materials on hand for brush making.....	334 51
" "	Materials sold during the year for brush making,	26 50
" "	Materials on hand for basket making.....	69 00
" "	Manufactured brushes on hand.....	11 25
" "	Unsettled account for brushes and wire.....	102 83
		<hr/>
		\$2,277 05
Deduct as above.....		<hr/>
		2,178 07
		<hr/>
Balance in favor of boys.....		<hr/>
		\$98 98
		<hr/>

## MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT,

## GIRLS.

1854.			Dr.
November 15.	To	manufactured articles on hand	\$484 70
" "		Materials on hand	39 46
" "		Money on hand	42 05
" "		Brushes purchased during the year	71 19
			<hr/>
			\$647 40
1855,			Cr.
November 15.	By	manufactured articles on hand	\$109 65
" "		Materials on hand	16 44
" "		Balance on work made for Institution	35 00
" "		Materials sold during the year	2 51
" "		Money on hand Nov. 15, 1854	52 05
" "		Work sold during the year	347 32
" "		Brushes sold during the year	77 15
" "		Brushes on hand	13 25
			<hr/>
			\$653 37
Deduct as above			<hr/>
			647 40
Balance in favor of girls			<hr/>
			\$5 77

## CATALOGUE OF PUPILS.

## MALES.

Names.	Towns.	Counties.
Dennis Beall	Holmesville	Holmes.
George F. Bowen	West Point	Morrow.
Robert A. Boyd	Mount Vernon	Knox.
Almon Brooks	Huntsburg	Geauga.
Walter Campbell	Salem	Columbiana.
Ezekiel Canfield	Barlow	Washington.
James Connor	Plymouth Michigan	
Jos. W. Connet	Nelsonville	Athens.
B. F. Cunningham	Patterson	Delaware.
Patrick Commaford	Urbana	Champaign.
Oliver E. Franks	Croton	Licking.
Jesse Francis	Mount Sterling	Muskingum.
Charles E. Felix	West Alexandria	Preble.
Charles Gaines	Melmore	Seneca.
Wm. Gibeaut	Washington	Guernsey.
Esli Goudy	Cincinnati	Hamilton.
Jackson Gray	Millersburg	Holmes.
Griffin S. Hicks	Avon	Lorain.
Wm. Hoover	Union	Montgomery.
Robert Hughes	Circleville	Pickaway.
James Kehoe	Columbus	Franklin.
Michael Kennedy	do	do
August Koch	Centre Furnace	Lawrence.
Isaac La Rue	Iberia	Morrow.
Oliver Ludwig	Tyemochtee	Wyandot.
Anthony Marsh	Orwell	Ashtabula.
Thomas McCan	Hanoverton	Columbiana.
Wm. McClish	Franconia	Putnam.
C. D. McIntosh	Cleveland	Cuyahoga.
David Mitchell	Scott	Adams.
A. S. Monroe	Vienna	Clark.
A. J. Morton	Cincinnati	Hamilton.
Wm. Ranes	Dublin	Franklin.
Wendal Shield	Columbus	do
George Somers	Worthington	do
Henry Stewart	Houston	Shelby.
C. W. Townshend	Tuppers Plains	Meigs.
Jesse Temple	Hanoverton	Columbiana.
John Van Dyke	Brookfield	Noble.
Edward Watts	Cincinnati	Hamilton.
John W. Weakley	Dayton	Montgomery.
John Whitmore	Bloom	Wood.
Daniel Winegarner	Liberty	Fairfield.



## CATALOGUE OF PUPILS—Continued.

## FEMALES.

Names.	Towns.	Counties.
Sophia Baker.....	Freedom.....	Portage.
A. Baumgartner.....	Jackson.....	Franklin.
Phebe Brill.....	Dresden.....	Muskingum.
Ruth A. Ball.....	Wellington.....	Lorain.
Sarah M. Carpenter.....	Sunbury.....	Delaware.
Salina Craig.....	Oak Hill.....	Jackson.
Mary Cramer.....	Bucyrus.....	Crawford.
Mary E. Dill.....	Franklin.....	Warren.
Naomi Ewing.....	Columbus.....	Franklin.
Isabel Francis.....	Mount Sterling.....	Muskingum.
Hannora Galvin.....	Garrettsville.....	Portage.
Harriet Haldeman.....	Marion.....	Marion.
Caroline C. Hanners.....	Nelson.....	Portage.
Barbara Hines.....	Wooster.....	Wayne.
Sarah A. Hott.....	Ashville.....	Pickaway.
Amelia Jennings.....	Ravenna.....	Portage.
Agnes McEwen.....	Wooster.....	Wayne.
Mary A. McLain.....	Blue Rock.....	Morgan.
Nancy Malone.....	Cleveland.....	Cuyahoga.
Henrietta Marquis.....	Cincinnati.....	Hamilton.
Margaret Martin.....	Greenville.....	Darke.
Rebecca Mills.....	Dresden.....	Muskingum.
Ann Mulholland.....	Cincinnati.....	Hamilton.
Amanda J. Pearce.....	Irville.....	Muskingum.
Clarissa J. Raymond.....	Huron.....	Erie.
Sarah A. Raymond.....	do.....	do
Irvillia C. Read.....	Olena.....	Huron.
Caroline Shanholtzer.....	Lancaster.....	Fairfield.
Melissa A. Shuck.....	Athens.....	Athens.
Almyra Shuck.....	do.....	do
Mary A. Tipton.....	Delaware.....	Delaware.
Henrietta Titus.....	Ripley.....	Lorain.
P. J. Van Norman.....	Peninsula.....	Summit.
Hannah H. White.....	Blue Rock.....	Muskingum.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The following papers and periodicals have been sent gratuitously to the Institution, during the past year.

To the daily reading of selections from these publications the pupils have listened with much pleasure; and to the editors and publishers who have so kindly afforded them this gratification, they return their sincere thanks.

Daily Ohio Statesman .....	Columbus, Ohio.
Daily Ohio State Journal .....	" "
Daily Enterprise .....	" "
Weekly State Capital Fact .....	" "
Lutheran Standard .....	" "
Journal of Education .....	" "
Ohio Medical Journal .....	" "
Ohio Cultivator .....	" "
Liberty Hall and Gazette .....	Cincinnati, "
Dollar Weekly Times .....	" "
The Weekly Enquirer .....	" "
The Weekly Commercial .....	" "
Journal and Messenger .....	" "
Presbyterian of the West .....	" "
Ladies Repository .....	" "
The Weekly Plain Dealer .....	Cleveland, "
The Weekly Herald .....	" "
Golden Rule .....	" "
The Intelligencer .....	Marietta, "
The Republican .....	" "
Religious Telescope .....	Dayton, "
Highland News .....	Hillsboro', "
The Gazette .....	St. Clairsville "
Stark County Democrat .....	Canton "
Auglaize Republican .....	Wapakonetta "
Wayne County Democrat .....	Wooster. "
Gospel Herald .....	Springfield, "

The pupils also express their thanks to "The Continentals," "Dodsworth's Band," "The Thayer Family," and Madam Parodi, who so kindly invited them to attend their concerts in the city of Columbus.

## TERMS OF ADMISSION.

Applications for admission should be addressed to the "Superintendent of the Institution for the Blind, Columbus, Ohio," and should state the name, residence, and post office of the applicant's parent or guardian, the applicant's name in full, his age, the age at which he became blind, and the supposed cause of blindness.

Satisfactory testimonials, signed by respectable citizens, must also be furnished, embracing the facts set forth in the following form :

"The undersigned, citizens of \_\_\_\_\_ county, in the State of Ohio, represent to the Board of Trustees for the Benevolent Institutions of said State, that they are acquainted with \_\_\_\_\_, a blind boy who resides in said county, and that they believe him to be of suitable age, mental faculties, bodily health, and moral character, to receive instruction.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ A. D. \_\_\_\_\_."

Applicants must be between the age of six and twenty-one years ; but pupils are not usually received under ten. The regular course of instruction occupies five years, and may be prolonged to seven years.

For residents of the State, the school is free, no charge being made for board or tuition, but parents and guardians must provide their children with good and suitable clothing, and pay their traveling expenses, and should also deposit with the steward a small sum for occasional expenses. For pupils residing out of the State, the terms are one hundred dollars per annum, payable half yearly in advance.

The term commences on the second Wednesday of September, and closes on the first Wednesday of July. The proper time for admission is at the commencement of the term.

Vacation continues from the first Wednesday in July, until the second Wednesday in September. Pupils are expected to spend the vacation at home or with their friends.













